

VI. PUBLIC AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. PARTICIPATION IN ASSESSMENTS (Not applicable to the Missouri Department of Corrections.)

This responsible public agency assures that children with disabilities, with the exception of students with disabilities who are convicted as adults under state law and incarcerated in an adult prison, are included in general State and district wide assessment programs, with appropriate accommodations and modifications in administration, if necessary.

This agency assures that it is using guidelines developed by the state for IEP teams to use in making decisions about the participation of students with disabilities in the general state assessment program. When an IEP team determines it is not appropriate for a student with a disability to participate in the general State assessment program, the student shall participate in the alternate State assessment.

This agency assures that children with disabilities who cannot participate in general State assessments shall participate in the State alternate assessment beginning July 1, 2000.

This agency has developed guidelines for the participation of children with disabilities in district wide assessment programs with appropriate accommodations and modifications in administration, if necessary. When IEP teams determine children with disabilities cannot participate in district wide assessment, they shall document why and how the child will be assessed.

PERSONNEL STANDARDS (34 CFR 300.136)

Use of Paraprofessionals and Assistants

Missouri allows paraprofessionals who are appropriately trained and supervised to be used to assist in the provision of special education and related services to children with disabilities.

This agency will provide each paraprofessional with the orientation and training necessary for the individual to perform the duties associated with the work assignment. At a minimum, such training shall include information and experiences related to:

- A. the type of disabilities displayed by the students with whom they will work;
- B. basic principles of behavior modification;
- C. basic instructional techniques expected to be used (demonstration, modeling, cueing, reinforcement, correction, etc.); and,
- D. other areas as necessary (positioning, lifting and transferring techniques, feeding procedures, etc.).

Paraprofessionals who do not hold a teaching certificate shall receive a minimum of 15 hours of training during their initial year of employment and a minimum of ten (10) hours of training in subsequent years.

Policy to Address Shortage of Personnel

It is the policy of this agency to recruit and hire appropriately and adequately trained personnel to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities. In those instances when an appropriately and adequately trained individual cannot be employed, including a geographic area of the State where there is a shortage of personnel that meet the qualifications, this agency will employ the most qualified individual available who is making satisfactory progress toward completing applicable course work necessary to meet the standards described in this section, consistent with the steps described above within three years.

This agency may still exercise the option under this section for training or hiring of personnel in a specific profession or discipline if shortages continue to exist. This agency will serve children with disabilities with the most qualified individuals available when instructional needs exceed available personnel who meet appropriate professional requirements in the State for a specific profession or discipline.

Personnel Standards

This agency assures that it will follow personnel standards as provided in the Missouri State Plan for Special Education.

This agency will review applicable Practice Acts, code of ethics, and content of an individuals' preparation program to determine if a designated individual can deliver specific services. Services will be provided consistent with the appropriate guidelines and requirements specified by the individual licensure requirements. In addition, the administration of some standardized assessments have specific requirements for administration. Personnel, with the appropriate education and training, may be qualified to administer these assessments and may hold a variety of job titles.

The **Educational Qualifications**, specified in the Missouri State Plan for Special Education, indicate the highest entry-level academic degree needed for state approved licensure or certification. This agency may employ individuals with qualifications that exceed these requirements.